

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

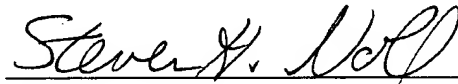
Delete amended page 18 and replace the Abstract with Replacement Page 18 which is provided herewith on a separate sheet attached to the amendment.

**REMARKS**

The present amendment makes editorial changes to the specification, drawings, claims and Abstract in order to conform to United States Patent Practice. Additionally, the Applicants include herewith a copy of the new Abstract on a separate page. None of the changes in the claims is intended as a surrender of any of the subject matter within the scope of the original claim language since, as noted above, all of these changes have been made solely to bring the claims into conformity with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Early consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Steven H. Noll  
Hill & Simpson  
A Professional Corporation  
85th Floor Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 876-0200  
Attorneys for Applicant

Abstract

Pump energy with a wavelength which is below the wavelength of an optical signal is fed into a transmission section from a pump laser via a coupler. The received optical signal is attenuated with increasing pump power with signals having higher frequencies being more strongly damped.

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